

CURRENT LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Previously Presented) A method of installing software in a system, comprising:
2 during an installation procedure, providing a user prompt to request entry of a key;
3 determining whether an entered key is proper;
4 in response to determining that the entered key is proper, installing the software in the
5 system and storing the entered key;
6 in response to determining that the entered key is not proper, installing the software in the
7 system and enabling activation of first code to prompt for entry of the key at a later time;
8 after enabling activation of the first code, executing the first code during a boot procedure
9 of the system; and
10 during execution of the first code, providing another prompt for entry of a second key.
- 1 2. (Cancelled)
- 1 3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining, by the first code, whether the second key is proper; and
3 not executing the installed software in response to the second key not being proper.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising storing the second key in a registry
2 in response to the second key being proper.
- 1 5. (Cancelled)
- 1 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
2 during execution of the installed software, providing a prompt for entry of a third key.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
determining whether the third key is proper; and
stopping execution of the installed software in response to determining that the third key
is not proper.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
during execution of the installed software, providing a prompt for entry of a third key;
determining whether the third key is proper; and
stopping execution of the installed software in response to determining that the third key
is not proper.

9. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:
a processor; and
a storage containing installation code for operating software executable by the processor,
the installation code when executed to cause the processor to:
provide a prompt to request entry of a first key;
determine whether the first key is proper;
in response to determining that the first key is proper, install the operating
software and store the first key in the storage;
in response to determining that the first key is not proper, install the operating
software and enable activation of first code to prompt for entry of a key at a later time;
after enabling activation of the first code, execute the first code during a boot
procedure of the system,
wherein execution of the first code causes the processor to:
provide another prompt for entry of a second key; and
determine whether the second key is proper.

10. – 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein execution of the first code causes the processor to further:

in response to determining that the second key is proper, enable execution of the operating software and store the second key in the storage; and

in response to determining that the second key is not proper, not execute the operating software.

13. – 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the storage contains a registry to store the first key in response to determining that the first key is proper.

16. (Previously Presented) An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions that when executed cause a system to:

during an installation procedure, provide a user prompt to request entry of a key;

determine whether an entered key is proper;

in response to determining that the entered key is proper, install the software in the system and store the entered key;

in response to determining that the entered key is not proper, install the software in the system and enable activation of first code to prompt for entry of the key at a later time;

after enabling activation of the first code, execute the first code during a boot procedure of the system; and

during execution of the first code, provide another prompt for entry of a second key.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 16, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to further:

determine, by the first code, whether the second key is proper; and

not execute the installed software in response to the second key not being proper.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 18, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to further:

during execution of the installed software, provide a prompt of another key in response to the entered key and the second key not being proper.